

Meeting Minutes
CJCC Subcommittee
Empowering Reentry & Reducing Recidivism
Jury Room B, Law & Justice Center
June 2, 2010

Present: Connie Campbell
Jim Cashell
Sam Casey
Jerry Crabs
Matthew Cyr
Michael Dunham
Don Hargrove
Dennis Houska
Shelly Johnson
Roxanne Klingensmith
Marty Lambert
Andrea Lower (Representing Steve Ette)
Stacy Pace
Jack Pollari
David Young

Guests: Dwayne Arscott, First Presbyterian Church; Michelle Letendre, Navigators, Bozeman Job Service; Christa Ziegler, Community Corrections Officer.

Introductions & Welcome

Co-Chair Roxanne Klingensmith called the meeting to order at 1:10pm and distributed copies of the agenda. She welcomed new members Jerry Crabs, Sam Casey and Michele Letendre. Jerry and his associate, Dwayne Arscott, had to leave as they thought the meeting was from noon - 1:00pm and had to depart because of a time conflict. Roxanne asked those attending to introduce themselves and tell who they represented.

Agenda Changes/Additions

Roxanne called for changes and/or additions to the agenda. Hearing none, she mentioned that under item E. 'Other items to discuss' she will call on Dave Young about the Blue Sky Motel.

May Meeting Minutes

Roxanne called for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the May 5th meeting as distributed electronically. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted by consensus as distributed.

Reflections on Rapid City Visit

Roxanne called on Jack Pollari to provide some brief reflections on the Rapid City visit. Jack shared the following highlights that he found interesting:

Having one entry point for offender assessments

Identifying one entity as the lead agency/administrative umbrella for a reentry program

Having a good referral system to other agencies and services

The dinner at Roxanne's provided a unique opportunity for judges to discuss their concerns about recidivism.

Jim Cashell cautioned about duplicating services and the need to coordinate with key stakeholders like the pre-release center. He also said there are huge differences between the Rapid City offender reentry program and the Gallatin County program; e.g., the SD program takes everyone, whereas the MT program screens out those needing more services.

Membership of the Executive Committee

Roxanne reported that Steve Ette, Director of Court Services, has joined the Executive Committee. In review, members of the Executive Committee are: Roxanne Klingensmith; Marty Lambert; Jack Pollari; Shelly Johnson; Steve Ette; Randy VanOsdol and Dave Young.

Definition of Recidivism

Roxanne reported that the Executive Committee had met and re-drafted a definition of recidivism to address concerns with the previous definition. Marty Lambert read the definition: **“Return to jail or prison for a new conviction or technical violation within 36 months of release from confinement or supervision.”** Marty moved to accept the definition as presented by the Executive Committee and Roxanne seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, there was a call for question and the motion passed. Roxanne asked if there were any additional comments. Don Hargrove expressed concern that there needs to be a provision for assisting/supervising offenders as they reenter communities.

Guiding Principles/Core Values

Roxanne called on Dave Young to present the Guiding Principles/Core Values. Dave mentioned that they were drafted by the Executive Committee to provide a shared vision and common understanding of membership on the subcommittee. He said that he hoped that the members would find them acceptable and easy to adhere to. They are as follows:

Honesty - truth and transparency at all times;

Integrity - subscribing to the highest ethical, professional and moral standards; never using the position and associated privileges on the subcommittee for personal gain;

Accountability - to the charge/task issued by the CJCC, to fellow subcommittee members and to the Gallatin County community at-large;

Teamwork - cooperation, collaboration, networking and sharing the workload;

Commitment - to accomplishing individual tasks, goals, objectives and the mission of the subcommittee;

Excellence and Quality - in all activities, projects, meetings and reports;

Respect and Compassion - to all individuals;

Persistence and Passion - in service, leadership and stewardship;

Apolitical - not engaging in any political or lobbying activities, unless expressly permitted by the subcommittee member's employer/agency/organization and/or by law.

Roxanne asked for discussion of the Guiding Principles/Core Values. Hearing none, they were accepted by consensus.

Review of Goals and Work Group Assignments

Copies of the goals and work group assignments as revised by the Executive Committee were distributed for review and comments. The initial discussion centered on what is our target population? After considerable discussion, it was decided that the target population for the workings of the subcommittee would be limited to those entering the community from the jail and/or the pre-release center. The goals and work groups were discussed with the follow results and assignments:

Community Partners - To establish a collaborative network of community-based partners

interested in empowering reentry and reducing recidivism.

Roxanne Klingensmith, Chair

Scott Malloy

Ray Ross

Michelle Letendre

Programming Evaluation and Outcomes -

Sub-goal #1 - To establish a productive working relationship with the supervising agency to receive background information on the offender target population (Gallatin County Detention Center and the Gallatin County Re-entry Center).

Sub-goal #2 - To investigate, evaluate and identify several evidence-based best-practices that could be replicable in Gallatin County.

Sub-goal #3 - To develop and employ a quality survey instrument that will measure recidivism rates and outcomes to determine if and when the Reducing Recidivism Project has accomplished its mission.

Randy VanOsdol, Chair

Jim Cashell

Steve Ette

Shelly Johnson

Jack Pollari

Connie Campbell

Sam Casey

Educational and Vocational Programs - To research and identify educational and vocational programs, seminars, and studies to meet the needs and improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of interested inmates and thereby enhance their chances for successful for reentry.

Dave Young, Chair

Zade Boylan

Matthew Cyr

Michael Dunham

Dennis Houska

Shelly Johnson

Ray Ross

Michele Letendre

Jerry Crabs

Risk/Needs Assessment Instrument - To investigate, identify and use a proven risk/needs assessment instrument that is consistent with that used by the MT DOC for working with offenders in Gallatin County.

Marty Lambert, Chair

Jack Pollari

Dave Young

Roxanne Klingensmith

Stacy Pace

Steve Ette

Sam Casey

Michael Dunham

Discharge Plan Document - To develop a 'Discharge Plan' to assist inmates with reentry into the

community based on their physical, relational, social, familial, emotional, mental, spiritual, educational and financial needs.

Brian Gootkin, Chair

Shelly Johnson

Scott Malloy

Jack Pallori

Dave Young

Roxanne Klingensmith

Michele Letendre

Matthew Cyr

Andrea Lower

Strategic Plan - To develop and finalize a 'Strategic Plan' with recommendations to present to the CJCC prior to their 2010 annual retreat.

Dave Young, Chair

Zade Boylan

Matthew Cyr

Michael Dunham

Steve Ette

Dennis Houska

Marty Lambert

Roxanne Klingensmith

Jim Cashell

Don Hargrove

Preparation of Strategic Plan

Roxanne called on Dave Young who is chairing the Strategic Plan work group. Dave said that the developing the Strategic Plan is an ongoing process and it is scheduled to be finished in time for the fall retreat of the CJCC. He mentioned that the topic of offender reentry is a hot topic within the state and nationally. Within the past year, Billings has established a Billings Area Reentry Task Force and on May 26-27, the first national Conference for 2nd Chance Grantees Committed to Successful Reentry was held in Washington, DC. Dave shared the following agenda topics from that national conference:

Developing and Implementing Reentry Collaborations

Creating the Strategic Plan

Implementing a Risk/Needs Assessment

Enhancing Job Readiness

Making Connections to Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Strengthening Pro-social Support and Developing Effective Mentor Programs: The Intersection of Faith and Justice

Developing Housing Support

Engaging Media, the Public, Corrections and Elected Officials

Involving Returning Citizens, their Families, and Communities

Linking Law Enforcement to Reentry Efforts

Adult Mentoring Grantees: Working with Corrections and Community Corrections

Possibility of Having a Link on the County Web Site

Roxanne asked Dave Young to give an update. Dave said that at the recent Executive Committee

Meeting Marty Lambert suggested that the county IT person be contacted to determine what is feasible. Dave said that he has had several conversations with Ed Kawa, the county IT person, and that adding our subcommittee under the navigation bar “Boards & Committees” on the county web site would be feasible. Dave distributed a copy of the face page of the Gallatin County DUI Task Force as a possible model. Ed explained that the county website operates through the Virtual Town Hall and that two options are possible regarding how information, reports, documents, etc, would be added to our website. One way would be to have Ed’s office do the updates, especially if the site would be somewhat static. If the web site will be more dynamic with frequent changes, then it would be advantageous to have a designated member of our subcommittee to work with his office monitoring and updating our web link. The latter would require an annual subscription fee of \$230. Ed said that about a dozen or so Boards/Committees pay the annual subscription rate and have their own designated web person. After some discussion, there was a consensus that having a designated web person and paying the subscription fee would be most suitable. Connie Campbell volunteered to be the designated web person for the subcommittee and the Executive Committee will address the issue about paying for the subscription.

Other Items to Discuss?

Dave mentioned that the topic of unmet housing needs for offenders has been on the front lines for a long time in Gallatin County and that the Blue Sky Motel is for sale and just reduced their price. It has 14 singles, 9 doubles, 3 two bedroom suites and one three-bedroom kitchen ‘family’ suite. Roxanne shared that the management of the Blue Sky Motel has been very cooperative in helping those in need of temporary housing.

Next Meeting.

Roxanne encouraged Work Groups to meet during June and come prepared to give updates at the next subcommittee meeting scheduled for 1:00pm on Wednesday, July 7th.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.